Procurement of foodgrains, rice, wheat, oilseeds and pulses

1891. SHRI A.G. KULKARNI :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CTVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for procurement of foodgrains particularly rice, wheat, oilseeds and pulses for the year 1988-1989?

(b) the procurement made upto the lst February, 1989?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CTVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b) No targets are fixed for procurement of rice and wheat as these foodgrains are procured against voluntary offers by fanners under Government's price support scheme. Procurement of rice and wheat during the year 1988-89 upto lst February, 1989 was as under:—

Rice :	5.4 million tonnes
Wheat :	6.5 million tonnes

Information in regard to oilseeds and pulses is being collected.

Newsprint Policy

1892. SHRI. A.G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in 'Sunday Observer' dated January 21, 1989 under the caption "Newsprint policy makes bad news".

(b) whether Government are aware that with the present newsprint policy inclusive of imports and indigenous supplies has inadvertantly brought the escalation in the prices of newspapers which is not a healthy sign; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rectify distortions ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is tme that the prices of imported newsprint have shown a rising trend in the recent past but increase in the prices of newspapers may not be wholly attributed to this factor.

(c) The indigenous newsprint prices have remained static since January, 1988. Government have little control over the prices of imported newsprint.

Loss to NCCF on rejection of rice by foreign buyers

1893. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CTVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of rice was rejected by the foreign buyers of NCCF at Kandla Port during 1981-82 being of inferior and sub-standard quality;

(b) if so. what was the total loss suffered by NCCF on this account;

(c) whether the NCCF was obliged to give a rebate of US $1000.00 per M.T. of rice for this reason thereby resulting in huge loss to the Federation;

(d) whether the rice so procured was purchased under the supervision of the then Regional Manager, Chandigarh who was responsible for not enforcing proper quality control while making purchases-

thereby bringing bad name and losses to NCCF; and

(e) if so, what disciplinary action has been taken against the erring official?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trading loss suffered by NCCF during 1981-82 was Rs. 164.06 Lacs.

(c) The NCCF are ascertaining the details at present.

(d) Yes, Sir. The rice which was procurred was under the overall supervision of the Regional Manager (N) though the actual work of supervision at destination was attended to by the concerned officers.

(e) Since the matter is *sub-judice.* Departmental enquiry for fixing responsibility will be conducted by NCCF after the case is finalised.

Loss to NCCF, Kanpur branch on purchase of Mustard oil from Jaipur

1894. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quan tity of "Tagore" Brand mustard oil was purchased from Jaipur @ Rs. 1800/- per quintal on 24th April, 1982 and 27th April 1982 by the then Branch Manager, NCCF, Kanpur, while the market prices were ranging between Rs. 980/- and 1000/ only;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances under which mustard oil was purchased at a higher rate by the then Branch Manag er concerned and whether any undue favour was shown to the seller for per sonal gains; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) The NCCF has reported that 4 wagons of mustard oil was purchased by its Kanpur branch @Rs. 1080/- per quintal loose on 25-4-1982 and 27-4-1982.

(b) and (c) NCCF had conducted a fact finding enquiry into the matter and on the basis of the findings have initiated action for imposition of major penalty on the then Branch Manager,.Kanpur which is under process.

Modernisation of BIS laboratories

1895. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVTL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has modernised its laboratories by installing the latest equipments;

(b) if so, the details of the equipments installed by BIS in its laboratories;

(c) the details of locations where BIS's laboratories are functioning presently;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up more laboratories in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the public will get quick results from the BIS Laboratories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) Modernisation of the laboratories of BIS is an on-going project approved by the Planning Commission. Under the Plan project, modernisation and upgradation of the capability of the laboratories have been undertaken.